

## Public Notice – Environmental Permit

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the construction of a dam and reservoir on Cobbs Creek in Cumberland County and the construction and operation of a water withdrawal intake on the James River in Cumberland County, Virginia.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** For approximately 30 days, beginning on the day after the notice is published. In the case where more than one newspaper publishes the notice, the comment periods will run concurrently, and will not end until 30 days from the last publication date. Comment periods will also be posted on DEQ's web site.

**PERMIT NAME:** Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board.

**NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER OF APPLICANT:** Cumberland County, P.O. Box 110, Cumberland, Virginia 23040; Virginia Water Protection Permit Number 05-0852.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Cumberland County has applied for a new permit for the Cobbs Creek Reservoir project in Cumberland County, on Cobbs Creek in the northwestern quadrant of the County, west and north of Columbia Road and southwest of the Town of Columbia. The permit will allow the applicant to build a 140-foot tall dam across Cobbs Creek which will in turn create a 1,107 acre lake. The permit will also allow the applicant to build an infiltration bed intake structure on the James River and withdraw up to a maximum of 150 million gallons of water per day from the James River. The proposed activity will result in the filling or flooding of 32.1 acres of wetlands and 15.16 miles of streams, with additional possible minor temporary and/or permanent wetland and stream impacts for water line and utility line installation or relocation. The activity proposed in the permit will affect both Cobbs Creek and the James River in the James River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. To mitigate for the impact of the water withdrawals, DEQ proposes to limit the times when water can be withdrawn from the river so that the project will not impact normal low flows. Water will be withdrawn from the James River and pumped to the reservoir during medium and high flows and released from the reservoir to be used by downstream localities during low flows. To compensate for the impacts to wetlands and streams, the applicant proposes to create wetlands, restore riparian buffer, restore streams at forest road-crossings, and preserve stream and riparian buffer at the Swift Island Mitigation site in Buckingham County and Cumberland State Forest in Cumberland County, as well as make a payment to a compensatory mitigation bank and/or the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund for impacts not compensated otherwise. Any additional compensation for minor utility line impacts or minor compensation site impacts will be submitted for DEQ approval prior to project construction. DEQ's preliminary decision is to approve the permit.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Written comments must include: 1) The names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the person commenting and of all people represented by the citizen. 2) If a public hearing is requested, the reason for holding a hearing, including associated concerns. 3) A brief, informal statement regarding the extent of the interest of the person commenting, including how the operation of the facility or activity affects the citizen. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the proposed permit. The public may review the draft permit and application by appointment at the DEQ office named below.

**CONTACTS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Joe Hassell, Division of Water Resources, or Brenda Winn, Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 1105 Richmond, Virginia 23218. Phone: (804) 698-4072 or (804) 698-4516. Fax: (804) 698-4347. E-mail: [jphassell@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:jphassell@deq.virginia.gov) or [bkwin@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:bkwin@deq.virginia.gov).